

**General Studies Council Minutes**  
**April 29, 2021 @ 3:30 p.m.**  
**Warner Hall, Warner Conference Room-via Zoom**

**Present:** Sri Seshadri, Sherri Harms, Jeong Hoon Choi, Nita Unruh, Doug Tillman, Tim Farrell, Rebecca Umland, Jeff Wells, Joan Blauwkamp, Joel Berrier, Rochelle Reeves, Miechelle McKelvey, Jeremy Dillon, Lisa Neal, Aaron Estes, Beth Hinga, Jessie Bialas, Greg Brown, Joel Cardenas, Mark Ellis

**Guests:** Amy Rundstrom, Tiffani Luethke, Megan Hartman, Suzanne Maughan, Adam Jensen, Tim

I. Call to order:

- **Approve Agenda:** McKelvey/Berrier moved to approve the agenda. **Motion Carried**
  
- **Minutes from April 1, 2021 meeting (approved via email)**

II. Old Business (Open Items):

- Review of previously reviewed syllabi that were returned for revision.
  - PHYS 107
    - Blauwkamp/Berrier moved to approve PHYS 107 for LOPER 8.  
**Yes: 10/No: 0 Motion Carried**
  - PHYS-CHEM-PHIL 126 (Fermi's Paradox: If We're Not Alone, Where Is Everybody?)
  - MUS-SOC-WSTD 126 (The Visible Voice)
    - Blauwkamp/Reeves moved to send PHYS-CHEM-PHIL 126 and MUS-SOC-WSTD 126 to campus for LOPER 1.  
**Yes: 11/No: 0 Motion Carried**
  
- Approved in the previous GSC meeting for dissemination to campus for comments prior to vote for final approval.
  - FIN-ACT-MGT 126 (CAPITALISM – How and Why It Works)
  - MGT-MKT-ITEC 126 (Acquiring Professional Skills)
  - PE-REC-ENG 126 (Live Long, Live Well)
  - FIN-PE-REC 126 (Ballin' on a Budget)
    - Comment from campus: "I think the idea of this seminar may be important to students, but the name needs to be changed. I know the intent is to make a class "relevant" to the students at this age, but I think a better title could be chosen."
  - MKT-SCM-SPCH 126 (Combating Misinformation)
  - ITEC-SPCH-HIST 126 (The Problem of Leadership in a Complex World)
  - ENG-CSP-FAMS 126 (You at UNK: Developing Individual, Intellectual, and Interpersonal Identity)

- PE-FIN-FAMS 126 (Living My Best Life: Relationships, Finance, Fitness)
- CSP 185
  - Blauwkamp/Umland moved to grant final approval to FIN-ACT-MGT 126, MGT-MKT-ITEC 126, PE-REC-ENG 126, FIN-PE-REC 126, MKT-SCM-SPCH 126, ITEC-SPCH-HIST 126, ENG-CSP-FAMS 126, and PE-FIN-FAMS 126 for LOPER 1 and final approval to CSP 185 for LOPER 10.
  - Wells stated he received comments from faculty with support for the course but concern for the title of the course. He asked if the Council should have the title reconsidered. Dillon stated he was given the same feedback as Wells. Seshadri asked if Wells or Dillon got suggestions for a new title or just to rename the course. Both Wells and Dillon said they did not receive suggestions for a new title.
  - Blauwkamp stated she is reluctant for the Council to be in the business of policing a course title. Instead, she stated the Council could suggest the title be changed. She is uncomfortable with the Council forcing the faculty to change the title.
  - Wells asked if the title of the course would be on the transcript. Neal stated yes, the title will be displayed on the student's transcript.
  - Blauwkamp rescinded her motion.
  - Unruh stated the faculty spoke with students about what they thought would be a course title that would be appealing to students to get them to read the course description. This is the title the students liked the best. McKelvey noted that the title reflects the students' vernacular.
  - Blauwkamp/McKelvey moved to grant final approval to FIN-ACT-MGT 126, MGT-MKT-ITEC 126, PE-REC-ENG 126, FIN-PE-REC 126, MKT-SCM-SPCH 126, ITEC-SPCH-HIST 126, ENG-CSP-FAMS 126, and PE-FIN-FAMS 126 for LOPER 1 and final approval to CSP 185 for LOPER 10, with recommendation that a name change be considered for FIN-PE-REC 126 "Ballin' on a Budget", in light of the title appearing on students' transcripts.  
**Yes: 11/No: 0 Motion Carried**
  - Unruh stated she will speak to the faculty and ask them to consider changing the course title.

- Course proposals (review for final approval):
  - NONE

### III. New Business:

- Review of new GS Course proposals
- LOPER 6
  - THEA 242

- Neal stated this course did not make it to Academic Affairs for approval. She stated the earliest the course would be in the catalog is Fall 2022.
- Blauwkamp stated she is concerned the class is being offered outside a relevant discipline in the Humanities category. She asked if the faculty member is qualified to teach a history course and noted that the textbook focuses on costumes from historical periods, not history scholarship on the development and significance of clothing. She stated she thinks the course would be better proposed in LOPER 5.
- Farrell stated the faculty member has a terminal degree in her field (MFA).
- Ellis and Hinga confirmed that HLC requires that an instructor teaches at least one level below their own degree and has completed at least 18 hours of graduate coursework in the relevant field. So a lecturer with an MFA is fully qualified to teach undergraduate coursework in the fine arts, but not in history (humanities).
- Blauwkamp/Tillman moved to send THEA 242 back to the department to consider application for LOPER 5 instead of LOPER 6. Instructor's qualification with MFA and text focus on costumes from historical periods suggests course fits with fashion as artistic and cultural expression.

**Yes: 12/No: 0 Motion Carried**

- Assessment and GS Program: Assembling a team (Greg, Beth, Lisa, Jeremy, Jeong Hoon) to apply to the [AAC&U Institute on General Education and Assessment](#).
  - Brown stated the team has been accepted and registered for the virtual conference.
- Thompson Scholars and First-Year Seminar (specifically ENG CSP FAMS 126 “You at UNK”)
  - Neal stated historically Thompson Scholars Learning Community has set aside courses for only Thompson Scholars students. TSLC has asked that all three sections of “You at UNK” be set aside for only Thompson Scholars students. Neal stated she is not comfortable setting aside all three sections of “You at UNK”, given the limited number of LOPER 1 seminars that have been approved and planned for Fall 2021, and suggested setting aside two sections for Thompson Scholars students. She also noted that only 47 Thompson Scholars enrolled in their designated Portals this Fall, so with 3 sections of LOPER 1, many seats in the sections would not fill.
  - Ellis stated the course was designed specifically for the Thompson Scholars students and noted that the MOU with the Buffett Foundation requires that Thompson Scholars take some courses exclusively within

their learning community. He also explained that previously Scholars were required to take 2 courses designated for them, but this Fall the requirement was being reduced to 1 course (the First-Year Seminar). Since around 80 Scholars are expected for Fall, the enrollments in the LOPER 1 sections should not be a concern. Hartman stated Amanda Sladek worked specifically on the course for the Thompson Scholars students, and she noted that it has not always been the case that Portals designated for Thompson Scholars also offered a general enrollment section of the same topic in the same semester. In future semesters, this First-Year Seminar would be offered for general enrollment as well.

- McKelvey stated that she does not think this is something that the Council can decide on. Scheduling special sections for Thompson Scholars or the Honors Program, etc. is between those programs and the relevant departments.
- Neal stated she would let Thompson Scholars know they can have all three sections for only Thompson Scholars students.
- APR next year, or ask for another 1-year extension?
  - Brown asked the Council if we should do the APR during the 2021-2022 academic year or ask for a one-year extension. McKelvey stated that it depends how long they can defer the APR. Hinga stated she would be willing to defer for one year but not any longer.
  - There was discussion of what the Council wanted to get out of the APR. An outside reviewer might help the Council to develop or finalize changes to the governance document and the assessment plan for the new LOPERs Program, which would recommend doing the APR next year. Or an outside reviewer might provide helpful perspective on those changes once they have been implemented, which would recommend delaying another year.
  - Blauwkamp asked and Hinga verified that the AAC&U Institute team's end product from the conference would be a draft of a new assessment plan. Blauwkamp expressed support for doing the APR next year, so the reviewer could help the Council finalize that plan before implementing it.
  - Brown agreed that he would prefer to do the APR in the Fall of 2021.
  - Dillon stated he does not like the idea of jumping into an APR in the Fall, after a couple of demanding years of Council activity. There was further discussion of the roles and timing of producing the self-study document.
  - Brown asked if the Council is okay with getting the APR together and having the visit during late Fall of 2021. The Council agreed.
  - Hinga stated that plans for the timing of the APR can change if necessary.
- Items suspended pending completion of course review & approval.
- Review / revision of governance document (GSC Governance)

IV. Other:

- Brown thanked Farrell for his time on the Council. He stated he will let Dr. Bicak know that everyone else wants to remain on the Council.

V. **Adjournment: Unruh/Berrier moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm**

**Next Meeting: September 2, 2021 @ 3:30 pm**